

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1628

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP BC (PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA VISIT TO U.S.

REF: GABORONE 1623

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CORDIAL ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT KHAMA, SENATOR HAYAKAWA INTERJECTED THAT
EXTAFFMIN MOGWE HAD TOLD HIM OF "THE GREAT HONOR"
PRESIDENT KHAMA WAS BEING ACCORDED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY.
HAYAKAWA SAID HE WANTED KHAMA TO KNOW HE HAD SENT A
MESSAGE TO SENATE MINORITY LEADER BAKER ASKING HIM
TO ARRANGE A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY "THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS
COMMITTEE IN CONGRESS" (SFRC) IN KHAMA'S HONOR AND
RECOMMENDING IT BE HELD JUNE 9 OR JUNE 12. PRESIDENT
KHAMA SAID HE KNEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SFRC AND
WAS FLATTERED BY THE SENATOR'S INITIATIVE. THE
DISCUSSION THEN RESUMED ON OTHER SUBJECTS BEING
REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING AND AFTER
SENATOR HAYAKAWA HAD LEFT THE ROOM, PRESIDENT
KHAMA TOOK ME ASIDE AND ASKED: "WHAT INVITATION
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IS THE SENATOR REFERRING TO?" I EXPLAINED
SENATOR'S INITIATIVE OUTLINED REFTEL. KHAMA
REPLIED THAT HE WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BOSTON
FOR LONDON ON JUNE 9. I SAID THE INVITATION
WAS BASED ON THE HOPE THAT HIS TRAVEL PLANS
COULD BE ALTERED. KHAMA REPLIED THAT HE COULD
NOT CHANGE HIS PLANS "WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL

INVITATION" TO COME TO WASHINGTON. I COMMENTED THAT HIS POSITION WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD.

3. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED (AS SENATOR HAYAKAWA CAN ATTEST) THAT IT WAS MINEXTAFF MOGWE WHO FIRST MENTIONED SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT KHAMA'S IMPENDING TRAVEL TO THE U.S. AND REASONS FOR IT. HAYAKAWA'S ACADEMIC BACKGROUND LED HIM TO APPRECIATE FULLY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HONOR HARVARD IS AWARDING KHAMA. AS THE FACTS EMERGED FROM MOGWE, UNDER HAYAKAWA'S GENTLE PRODDING, THE SENATOR BECAME INCREASINGLY ANIMATED AND ASKED THAT REFTEL BE SENT. THIS ENTHUSIASM CARRIED OVER DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA TO WHOM HE SPONTANEOUSLY MENTIONED WHAT HE HAD DONE AS EVIDENCE OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT. PRESIDENT KHAMA'S REACTION TO ME, NOTING THE IMPROPRIETY OF RESPONDING TO AN INVITATION FROM THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH IN THE ABSENCE OF "OFFICIAL INVITATION" TO COME TO WASHINGTON IS ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD NOT EMBARRASS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

4. I REALIZE AND GREATLY APPRECIATE THE HEROIC EFFORTS (BOTH IN AF AND S-S) THAT HAVE ALREADY GONE INTO SEEKING NECESSARY INVITATION. IN VIEW OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, I CAN ONLY RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFIRM THE OBVIOUS, NAMELY THE EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES WHICH PRESIDENT KHAMA AND U.S. SHARE BY TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO OBTAIN INVITATION, IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S NAME, ASKING PRESIDENT KHAMA TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETING, HOWEVER BRIEF. SUCH INVITATION WOULD ENABLE PRESIDENT KHAMA TO ACCEPT THE POSSIBLE SFRC INVITATION WHICH HE WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO DO. THE SUPREME IRONY OF THE SITUATION, WHICH REQUIRES PARTICULARLY DELICATE HANDLING, IS THAT EVEN A SLIGHT ANTAGONISM MIGHT BE CREATED BETWEEN USG AND GOB AS A RESULT OF THIS MATTER WHEN OUR POLICIES ARE SO COMPATIBLE. INCIDENTALLY, PRESIDENT KHAMA'S REMARKS TO ME CONFIRM THAT (CONTRARY TO SOME INDICATIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK) HE HAS NOT FINALLY WITHDRAWN HIS REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT BUT RATHER IS STILL PREPARED TO RESPOND TO INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON. NORLAND

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